

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 771

To save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property through improved State and local fire safety education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1995

Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BOEHLERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property through improved State and local fire safety education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Safety Education
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Nation’s fire losses are estimated at
9 5,000 deaths and 29,000 injuries annually, produc-
10 ing an economic loss conservatively estimated at

1 \$10,000,000,000 a year plus more than
2 \$1,000,000,000 a year in health care costs;

3 (2) sustained and targeted fire safety education
4 at the State and local levels, particularly in identifi-
5 able high-risk populations, produces dramatic results
6 in preventing fires, fire deaths, and dollar loss from
7 fire;

8 (3) in recent years, the Nation's fire depart-
9 ments have seen their fire safety education budgets
10 cut dramatically and, in many cases, eliminated;

11 (4) there is a need to expand the availability of
12 State and local fire prevention programs and sup-
13 porting resources and materials to help State agen-
14 cies and local fire departments in carrying out effec-
15 tive public education;

16 (5) fire departments in other countries with
17 fewer fire deaths per capita than the United States
18 spend an average of 4–10 percent of their budgets
19 on fire prevention, versus less than 3 percent for
20 United States departments; and

21 (6) only by accurately collecting and analyzing
22 data on fire deaths, injuries and dollar loss can the
23 Nation's fire departments pinpoint the populations
24 and regions where they most need to direct their

1 educational efforts, thus leading to a more efficient
2 and effective use of resources.

3 **SEC. 3. FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION.**

4 (a) AWARDS.—The Administrator may enter into
5 contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants with eligible
6 entities to obtain and distribute at the State and local level
7 fire safety and prevention education programs and sup-
8 porting educational resources.

9 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts re-
10 ceived by an entity under subsection (a)—

11 (1) not more than 25 percent may be used for
12 statewide fire safety and prevention programs;

13 (2) not more than 25 percent may be used to
14 implement new regional or local fire safety and pre-
15 vention programs targeting high risk populations;
16 and

17 (3) at least 50 percent shall be used for awards
18 of not more than \$10,000 for existing regional or
19 local fire safety and prevention programs that have
20 been demonstrated to be effective in preventing fires,
21 fire deaths and injuries, and dollar losses from fire.

22 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under sub-
23 section (a) may be used to educate the public in all aspects
24 of fire safety and prevention, including—

1 (1) the effectiveness and appropriate use of fire
2 suppression and prevention equipment such as auto-
3 matic sprinklers, smoke detectors, and portable ex-
4 tinguishers;

5 (2) the organization and conduct of exit drills;
6 and

7 (3) the safe use of products that could contrib-
8 ute to accidental fires.

9 (d) PRIORITY OF EXISTING MATERIALS.—Fire safety
10 education programs funded under this Act shall give prior-
11 ity to the use of public education materials that have al-
12 ready been developed, if such materials meet the demands
13 of the program being funded.

14 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION.**

15 The Administrator may enter into contracts, coopera-
16 tive agreements, or grants with States for the purpose of
17 implementing the revised National Fire Incident Report-
18 ing System, established under section 9 of the Federal
19 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
20 2208), to improve and enhance the collection and analysis
21 of fire data at the State and local levels.

22 **SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS.**

23 Each eligible entity desiring a contract, cooperative
24 agreement, or grant under this Act shall submit an appli-
25 cation to the Administrator at such time, in such manner,

1 and accompanied by such information as the Adminis-
2 trator may reasonably require.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

4 (a) ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR.—An en-
5 tity receiving funds under section 3 shall prepare and sub-
6 mit to the Administrator an annual report which contains
7 such information as the Administrator may require. At a
8 minimum, the report shall describe the program activities
9 undertaken with such funds, including—

10 (1) any program that has been developed di-
11 rectly or indirectly by the entity, and the target pop-
12 ulation of such program;

13 (2) support materials that have been obtained
14 and the method by which such materials are distrib-
15 uted; and

16 (3) any initiatives undertaken by the entity to
17 develop public-private partnerships to secure non-
18 Federal support for the development and distribu-
19 tion of programs and material in furtherance of this
20 Act.

21 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall
22 prepare and submit to the Congress an annual report
23 which includes a description of the programs undertaken
24 and materials developed and distributed by entities receiv-
25 ing funds under section 3.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION.—For the purposes of
3 carrying out section 3 of this Act, there are authorized
4 to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
5 1997 and 1998, of which no more than \$500,000 may be
6 spent in any fiscal year on administrative costs.

7 (b) DATA COLLECTION.—For the purposes of carry-
8 ing out section 4 of this Act, there are authorized to be
9 appropriated \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 1996, of which no
10 more than \$300,000 shall be spent on administrative
11 costs.

12 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

13 As used in this Act—

14 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
15 ministrator of the United States Fire Administra-
16 tion;

17 (2) the term “eligible entity” means the office
18 of the State fire marshal for a State or an equiva-
19 lent State office having primary responsibility for
20 fire safety and prevention in the State;

21 (3) the term “fire safety and prevention edu-
22 cation programs” includes publications, audiovisual
23 presentations, and demonstrations; and

24 (4) the term “State” means any State of the
25 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
26 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin

- 1 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mar-
- 2 iana Islands, and any other territory or possession
- 3 of the United States.

